

Grace in Action

Grace is a wonderful thing. Without it, we would be in serious bother, but defining it can be difficult.

'Undeserved favour' and the acronym G.R.A.C.E (God's Riches At Christ's Expense) give us a feel for its meaning, but don't tell the full story.

Philip Yancey's book, 'What's so Amazing about Grace?' explains how grace is the well from which compassion, forgiveness and self-sacrifice flow. Reading it has such an impact on me that afterwards, I always tried to include 'GRACE' in my IT passwords at work.

I guess grace is demonstrated best by how God deals with us. As Paul writes,

'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...'
(Ephesians 2:8)

This is illustrated so well by the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15: 11-32. Here the unmerited favour of the long-suffering Father towards his foolish, rebellious son is obvious to see. The returning son receives the best robe, ring and sandals – all highly symbolic of his complete reinstatement as a son in every sense... with a party thrown in for good measure! When we put ourselves into the shoes of the prodigal, we begin to realise how blessed and privileged we are. Being the recipient of such grace tells us we are accepted, significant and, above all, loved.

Of course, as we are grace-receivers, it is totally reasonable that we should be grace-givers. This is clear from parables such as 'The Unforgiving Servant' in Matthew 18:21-25, who wouldn't cancel the small debt owed to him by a fellow servant after his own, huge debt had been cancelled by his master (God was not impressed).

John describes Christ as being, 'full of grace and truth' (John 1:14) so, as

IT'S NOT JUST WHAT WE DO, IT'S HOW WE DO IT!

we are changed into His likeness, it follows that we should reflect more of His grace to those around us. But, what does this grace look like and is it simply doing what's best for others? This reminds me of a regrettable incident that took place about 35 years ago...

When I heard that the local IM Circuit had arranged a Family Fun Day for a Saturday afternoon, my heart sank. As a youth leader, it was my responsibility to take our young people along, but, to be honest, I'd rather have been doing something else: this would be one of those 'duty first, grit-your-teeth occasions and, after all, it wouldn't take up all day.

I reluctantly arrived with a car full of young people to find the activities located at the church and on a local park where most of the lads went off to play football.

All was going well, but it's surprising how football brings out the competitive nature in people, especially young people leaders. I was sure that I could make the tackle, but my opposing leader (name withheld to avoid any embarrassment) was equally wholehearted. Contact was inevitable, with my opponent's elbow hitting me flush in the mouth. A visit to A&E confirmed that his elbow was dislocated and my front tooth was snapped off, leaving me with a grin like a pirate (no offense to any pirates who may be reading).

On returning to the church, I found that one of the girls that I had brought had sprained her ankle on the bouncy castle... so much for the 'fun' suggested by the event title!

Why am I sharing this? Well, the whole episode taught me an important lesson: acting with grace is more than doing our duty, or even making sacrifices for the sake of others. You could argue that taking the young people to the Fun Day was

a gracious act, but there's no doubt I didn't have a gracious attitude.

Would things have turned out differently if my attitude had been better? I don't know, but the Lord certainly used the events that day to get my attention.

Grace is more than just what we do, it's about the condition of our hearts. This shouldn't surprise us, as the Lord said to Samuel,

'People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' (1 Samuel 16:7)

May I suggest that how we do things are just as important as the actions themselves.

When the father restored his wayward son in the parable discussed earlier, what really amazes me is that father's attitude:

'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.' (Luke 15:20)

The gracious actions that followed – the robe, the ring and the sandals – were the natural outworking of a grace-filled heart. This is how divine grace works.

After considerable dental work, the gap in my teeth remains – a constant reminder that I need to make sure my heart is right before I do something. In fact, if after prayer, our hearts are still not 'in something', maybe we should leave that task to someone else... just a thought.

So, as we delight in God's amazing grace for each one of us, let us seek to share that grace by actions and an attitude that honour Him. Let us be willing to go to the extreme, but do it with a smile and preferably with a full set of teeth!

Lester Atherton, Risley

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L. and P. were able to enjoy a short break at the end of Ramadan and returned refreshed. L. has been in contact with a local company to offer a programme in mental fitness. This would be a great blessing for all concerned. Many younger people in their country are becoming disillusioned with the majority religion. Pray that they become open to the Gospel. They also rejoice in the fact that the president of their country is taking a firm stand against corruption and some of the worst offenders have been imprisoned. L. and P. had been planning a visit to the UK later this year. However, at the beginning of June, L. had to make arrangements to come and visit her father whose health was deteriorating. Meanwhile, P. remained in their home and continued his work and witness there. Pray for the Lord to lead them in their future plans.

Liz Greenhalgh praises the Lord for opening doors as she seeks to extend the reading project with local primary school children. She has recruited several others to help in this, but there is also a need for extra transport and snacks for the children and provision of teaching resources such as workbooks. The current group of children are progressing well. Four summer camps for the local children are being planned and Liz will be helping at three of them. Work with the Ukrainians has been both challenging and enjoyable. Most are open to spiritual things and happy to be prayed for. Liz has particularly befriended one family, a mother and two children aged 14 and 10 and accompanied the children on a short outing as a birthday celebration. The mother had broken her leg and was finding it hard to cope. Please continue to pray for Liz and for all those she is working with.

Gail and Daniel Castro are now in a very busy period, as the Rock of Horeb camp has many more visitors over the summer holiday season. Pray that the younger people in particular might benefit from a stay in the camp, as they enjoy the social activities while also growing in faith through the ministry. Pray that this facility might continue to be financially viable and that there would be enough volunteers to make the planned programme of events possible.

Anne Fambely, OSM Committee

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT CHERRY LANE, LYMM

On Sunday the 5th of June, Cherry Lane held a 'Right Royal to Do Barbeque' to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We held a 'Pentecost Service', at which Mr Tony Droniak led the service and Mr Phil Mc Dermott preached. We also shared communion together.

Our 'Right Royal To Do Barbeque' was truly a royal to do!

The Queen (our next door neighbour) arrived whilst the burgers and sausages cooked to open our new church garden, which will be dedicated on our church Anniversary.

Treflyn and Ann Jones led us in worship and later led us again with secular songs. We all had a really enjoyable afternoon with

good food and, even though it rained, we were still able to praise the Lord and celebrate the Jubilee together.

Sue Stanworth, Cherry Lane, Lymm



AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE JUBILEE

Easington Lane celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a strawberry afternoon tea on Sunday the 5th of June prior to the Pentecost Service.



A VISUAL EASTER



As a witness in the community this Easter, we decided that at the start of Holy Week we would put up an empty, rough wooden cross with a crown of thorns outside the church as a reminder of the suffering that Jesus

went through for each one of us and to draw the attention of the local community to the fact that this was a special week for Christians.

Then, on Easter Sunday morning, the ladies from the church arrived early for the morning service and covered the bare cross with flowers to symbolise the resurrection and our eternal life.

We pray that all who saw it received the true message of Easter and not just chocolate eggs.

Hazel Chapple, Mill Lane, Bristol



Including the J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Club members and their families, approximately 30 people enjoyed scones, sandwiches along with cups of tea.

It was a well-planned afternoon giving thanks to Her Majesty on her successful reign as Queen over the last 70 years. Particularly, how she has served God during her time as Queen and how her witness to our country and further afield is an example to follow.

Kay White, Easington Lane

My Faith & My Job

**ANDY HUNTER,
TYLDESLEY**

Although I grew up going to church and around church, it wasn't until my teenage years that I became a Christian. For the majority of my high school life, I was quite badly bullied and although you always hear that if such a thing is happening, you should always go and let someone know, I didn't.

However, I remember quite vividly one night that I had just had enough and so, as I lay on my bed (a teenager's comfort is often their bed), I casually spoke words along the lines of, 'Jesus, if you are real, I want you in my life.' The next day, I reluctantly got up, and walked to school and it was the first time I can remember at the age of 14 (3 years after starting secondary school), that I wasn't bullied. From that point on, until I left school, I wasn't bullied again.

Now, this has nothing and yet everything to do with the job that I do now. When you're at school, you often get asked the ridiculous question, 'What would you like to do with your life?' I didn't have the answer to that question and, to some extent, I still don't. But, one thing I definitely knew was that I would never work in a school.

You may see where this is heading...

For the past 11 years or so, I have worked a range of roles in different secondary schools such as a Cover Supervisor (basically an in-house supply teacher), Learning Mentor (mentoring GCSE pupils) and then, for the last 5 years, I have been a School Chaplain of a Church of England High School in Bolton.

The majority of my background lies in youth work and is something that I am very passionate about and feel called to do. At the age of 21, shortly after leaving university, I'd been at a Christian event down south for a few days and I remember quite clearly, a vision coming into my head (this is not something that happens often to me, but it was very clear). The vision was of young people and the number 1,000. Now, let me state here, I am not a numbers person. For me, substance is far better and far more important than show, however I could not shake that number.

And so, I left university and headed back home to set up some youth work in Tyldesley and it was going well - we had a few that came and relationships were being built...but then they all seemed to either enter the workplace

or head to university and it was although I'd completely missed the ball. How could I have been so daft to think that God would give me a vision about that? Was it even God or my own wanting?

Fast forward a few years, I'd been in a role at the school I am now based at and the Chaplain told me that she was leaving to relocate and she thought that I should apply for the job. Now would be a good time for me to confess that I did not know fully what the role of Chaplain would require and maybe I wasn't quite prepared for the upheaval that it would cause. I remember that the day that I applied - I had had one of those answers to prayer that would seem daft to most people but it meant a lot to me in the moment - and so I got on my knees and I gave the application to God and felt completely at peace about it.

In the end, I got the job and have been doing it for the past five years or so. In my first few weeks, I had to plan to do a whole school communion service and I'd planned for something to be handed out in the service for the young people to leave with. With this in mind, I asked the office manager how many pupils we had on roll and she came back to me with the number 1,051.

It was as though in that moment, any doubts I had previously came crashing down and God was there reminding me of how much He cares for every detail of our lives and how His ways are so much higher than ours. It was as though I heard Him in that moment say, 'I haven't forgotten.'

From that point onwards, Chaplaincy has been a bit of a whirlwind and yet a tremendous privilege. I'm one of only two full-time school Chaplains in the Diocese of Manchester and so, with that, comes a great responsibility but also a brilliant opportunity.

Being a school Chaplain has taught me a lot about my own theology; it has deepened my understanding and relationship with God. I have to confess that in the first few weeks and months I tried to do too much in my own strength. I've realised over the years that this is not a job that can be done solely by human ability. That was a tough lesson but a necessary one also.

The bulk of my role is heavily pastoral and that is something that I find both rewarding and difficult in equal measure. It's a role that is often

reactive rather than proactive in the sense that you never really know what each day will bring. And, in the past 5 years, there have been some incredibly difficult things to walk through with people. Some large-scale events that affected the whole school, such as the M.E.N terrorist attack, the impact of the pandemic and the tragedy of losing staff and pupils. But, there have also been all those other things that are less well-known, personal to individual young people.

As Chaplain, I am there for both the pupils and the staff. Every Wednesday, we have a staff prayer group which is attended by smallish number of staff from different religious backgrounds who come and have that special time at the start of the day. There's normally a thought around a theme and a Bible passage to complement it before we think about those pupils and staff who are having difficult times in their lives for whatever reason. It is usually less than ten minutes in duration, but it helps many of us to get through the week and to remember the bigger picture.

I have seen many answers to prayer over the past 5 years of Chaplaincy. There was the time for example when a pupil got knocked down by a vehicle travelling too fast just outside of school. From the impact, we feared the worst, but I remember praying for a miracle in the prayer group that we had the next day and, by that afternoon, the deputy head walked in to tell me that the pupil had left hospital and was now back at home with barely a scratch on her.

Apparently, according to the medics who dealt with her, her rucksack had been in the exact place where her head landed, thus cushioning the impact and ultimately saving her life! Miracles happen!

That is what I would call a mountain moving miracle, but I am also of the firm belief that miracles come in mounds as well as mountains.

In other words, there are plenty of miracles that happen on a much smaller scale but they are miracles nonetheless. There are far too many of those to write about here but I'm grateful for God and his faithfulness and his wisdom.

Sadly, there are times when it doesn't quite work out the way we hoped and prayed for. Those times are really hard but I believe that God is a God so involved in every inch of our lives that He smiles with us when things are

going well but He also weeps with us in those moments. Pete Greig's quote about the nature of God really resonates here,

'We want God to airlift us out of our problems, but more often than not, He parachutes in and joins us in the midst of them.'

Sometimes, the role of a Chaplain is to simply draw alongside and to sit with those hurting and if

necessary to speak. Those moments, though

incredibly hard, are very precious and I am equally grateful for that privilege as I am for those mountain moving miracles I've seen.

This job is a privilege but it is also a tremendous responsibility and so if you are able to pray for myself for wisdom and strength and grace as I go about each day, I'd be grateful. I also feel on my heart at the moment

all young people nationwide need prayer. As we start to see the aftermath and the impact of the pandemic, they need to know of a Jesus that they can cast all their cares and anxiety on. They need to know that they are loved and treasured and valued. Also, they need to know that what is, will not be forever.

In the first lockdown, I was asked by our Catering Manager (or as I

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21: 3-5

affectionately call him, Head Chef), if what goes on in the world affects my faith? It was a question I was a bit unprepared for if I'm honest but then I came to the simple conclusion of, 'Yes.' Yes, it does. But then I followed that by saying that often those things are what fuels my faith. I honestly don't know how people can look out at

May God bless you as you serve him in whatever capacity you are able and may you grow deeper in the knowledge of his grace and the realisation of his faithfulness and love for you.

CELEBRATING THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

At Bryn, we decided we wanted to make the most of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, firstly to honour the Queen and secondly, to have a much-needed celebration after the long months of the pandemic. We prayed that it could be something God could use for His purposes.

We began with a Ladies' Afternoon Tea on the first day of the holiday. There was a lot of bunting, a lot of cake and a lot of fun. As you may be able to see from one of the photos, the Queen graced the occasion with her presence. She seemed to enjoy her time with us, smiling throughout!

We even had time for a challenging message based on Queen Esther – another woman in royal position who played her part and served her people faithfully.

On the Sunday morning, our focus was

on the eternal Kingdom to which we have access through our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the incomparable Servant King, leaving Heaven's glory, coming to earth and giving His life for us on Calvary's cross.

After the service, we went outside to plant a tree and pray for Her Majesty. The children later planted the seeds of perennial flowers, which we hope they will see growing for many years.

Finally, we reached out to the community by giving a copy of the HOPE publication, 'Our Faithful Queen' to local public servants to thank them for their valued contribution to local life. Of course, all these out-of-the-ordinary events demanded some extra work but it was more than worthwhile and made the special weekend very special indeed.

Brenda Dykes, Bryn

METHODIST TAPESTRIES PROJECT

The Weardale Museum, in Ireshopeburn, County Durham, is currently promoting the Methodist Tapestries Project, which will show the history and heritage of Methodism via the medium of embroidery.

Relating stories, not only local to the Museum, but those of regional, national and international interest, the Project currently has forty-nine panels at various stages of construction and is looking for volunteers to take on further designs.

As they especially value input and involvement, they are seeking volunteers who may be interested in participating in this project – this could be contributions of local stories that illustrate Methodist history and heritage are always appreciated, or for any potential stitchers!

For further information, contact the Project Co-ordinator, Liz Walsh, at contact@methodisttapestries.org.uk or visit www.weardalemuseum.org.uk

Many thanks to Chris Mayes at Risley for sending information about this project in.



From the top: Ladies' Afternoon Tea celebrations, planting the commemorative tree for the Jubilee and the tree plaque.

Dorothy's Jottings

DOROTHY KENDRICK
CONNEXIONAL PAST-PRESIDENT

Recently, I have had some work done in the garden: trees cut down, a shed and tree stumps removed. What a revelation! The garden has suddenly been extended by twelve feet and I found all sorts of materials used in the construction of the shed. The result? A huge amount of rubbish to be taken to the skip, but a whole new view that has opened up with tremendous possibilities - signs of the old gateway of a previous dwelling and a firm foundation for a future construction.



Before, during... and after!

A small group have been meeting to prepare a series of sermons, Bible notes and Bible studies for use by all our Connexion of churches to help us to renew our calling as a denomination. This has not been an easy piece of work as all the group members are busy people involved in their own church, denomination and community groups as well in some cases. Also, for many of the group, it is a new experience to produce such pieces of work and there has been much burning of midnight oil and a lot of praying too.

However, God is faithful and we are on track to deliver a presentation of the work at Annual Meeting 2022 when churches will have opportunity to hear about the plans for sharing the work with all our churches and encouraging dialogue with churches and circuits, so the voice of the churches may be heard and included in any future recommendation of change to our structures. It is really important that all churches do engage with this work so we have a fully representational view of what the Connexion of churches really think and the issues they see as needing to be addressed.

'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.'

Ephesians 2:6-7 NIV

I have no doubt there will be much that, in time, will need to be cleared away. Old ways of operating that are no longer relevant in today's digital age. Large numbers of Officers from an ever reducing membership, many of whom work better with ecumenical partners than with their local IM church in the same area. The important words are 'in time'. This will not be a quick process because it will lead, ultimately, to us deciding how we want to operate in the next 100 years. It is hoped to present a report from the church responses to AM 2023, but that may have to be extended to AM 2024 and then we will look at how we can work effectively going forward and the governance necessary.

In the process of renewing our calling, we will be considering the foundations on which Independent Methodism was built on, what we believe and why and whether any changes are required in how we operate as individual churches, circuits and a Connexion of churches.

I believe in working through this process we will find

opening up before us tremendous possibilities of working together in a new way – a way that God is calling us into, the way of God's Kingdom. There will be things we need to be prepared to give up, things we need to change as well as things we will hold fast to and recognise their deep importance to our faith and witness. All of this will only be possible if all the churches embrace this piece of work and are willing to input to the discussions. All means each of us, not simply the leader(s) of the church.

God is shaking our nation and the world at this time. We need to continue to move in obedience to His call and faithfulness to His Word. To this end, it has been agreed by Connexional Committee that we will hold a period of prayer for the IM Connexion over the two weeks 17th – 31st July. This will enable churches to respond at times that are suitable for themselves and their existing timetables of prayer. Please watch the Connexional weekly emails for

more details as we will be setting prayer points and topics for us to all be praying about together. If you are willing to be involved in encouraging prayer in your church, please contact the Resource Centre in the first instance.

Grace is often broken down for easy remembering to 'God's Riches At Christ's Expense'. Grace is something that is completely undeserved. We are totally dependent on God for His grace and favour upon the IM Denomination and we should never take it for granted.

God has called us to be a Body through whom He will reach a people in need of the saving knowledge of Jesus. If we respond in obedience, He will equip us and provide everything that is needed.

However, in fulfilling His purposes for us, we will experience His grace in all its fullness and enjoy everything that Christ has won for us by His death on the cross at Calvary, His resurrection, His ascension into heaven and the pouring out of His Holy Spirit. In the knowledge of such grace, how can we not respond in obedience and faith?

2022 MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Venue: LANCASTER HOUSE HOTEL
Theme: HOPE FOR THE NATION

After what seemed an eternity of isolation, some 35 ministers, leaders and invited guests were able to meet at Lancaster House Hotel, close to Lancaster University, to consider the question, 'In what way could the Independent Methodists be involved in the hope for the nation?' as part of the continuing theme 'Hope for the Nation'.

The weekend, chaired by Connexional Past President Dorothy Kendrick, and led by Gavin Calver and Ben Jeffrey from the Evangelical Alliance, with input from Rev Derek Balsdon, and his wife, Hilary, from Methodist Evangelicals Together, passed so quickly that it felt that no sooner had we assembled for the Friday evening session, that it was time for us to make our homeward journeys. It was truly wonderful to be able to share fellowship and talk to one another in person after such a long time.

After a short introductory video presentation outlining the main principles of the Evangelical Alliance's that:

1. The Bible is the inspired word of God.
 2. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to the life of the Christian.
 3. Every individual is in need of Conversion.
 4. Christians need to be active in the Community
- Gavin's address, 'What Kind of Christians are Needed?', focussed on Philippians 2: 25-30, stating that we, as individual Christians, need to be:

1. Aware of our own 'brokenness'.
2. Compassionate – treating individuals individually.
3. Willing to use our communication skills to reach others effectively

And, as Churches, to

1. Be More kind.
2. Be More Brave.
3. Live as groups - balanced, faithful, risk-taking, messengers and servants within their communities.

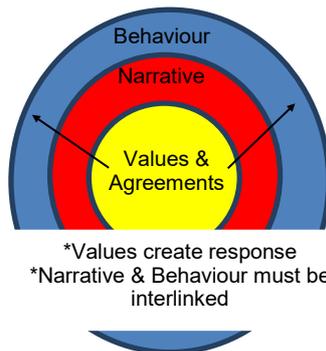
Saturday's programmes, led by Ben, further 'unpacked' the theme of Hope, over three well illustrated sessions, using readings from James, Hebrews and Romans and personal examples to provide a different perspective.

Session 1 - allowing us to 'Fix the Frame On Hope', illustrated by the use of a 'physical' picture frame to 'home in' on different areas of 'the big picture' to realise, as Abraham did, that, 'Hope is belief that Jesus is still working in us even though we can't see it.' (Hebrews 11, Romans 4) and allowing us to 'Fix the frame to Face the Facts and Look Beyond' by preparation and consideration rather than giving up (Romans 4).

Session 2 - 'Check the Record of your life' : investigating our personal attitudes and choices -

- Admitting our Vulnerabilities and Flaws: Do we judge, criticise, compare?
- Pride v Humility: 'Pride goes before a fall...' (Proverbs 16: 18) and 'Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.' (C. S. Lewis).
- Hating or Celebrating: In all things seek God's Blessing and guidance: 'Hope anchors and expands generations (and legacy).' (Hebrews 11) 'Deferred Hope makes the Heart Sick.'

Session 3 – 'Creating a Culture of Evangelism' focussed on how change must be both intentional and planned (Judges 2: 7-11; II Timothy 2:2)



A recent survey in England stated:

- 45% believe in Resurrection
- 20% believe in God
- 33% wanted to know more (having spoken to a Christian)
- 4% were in church!

So how can culture change?

- IDENTIFY the value clearly
- ARTICULATE succinctly – use 'sticky' language
- PRACTICE outworking
- PREACH
- RECOGNISE and prioritise progress
- ANALYSE outcomes

Because:

- DEEPEST BELIEFS have greatest effect upon reaction
- INSECURITY doubt and struggle lie under the surface
- Only ONE person is needed to give HOPE!

Rev Derek Balsdon outlined details of Support, Resources and information available from Methodist Evangelicals Together.

The Conference closed by all present sharing in The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, led by Dorothy Kendrick, before refreshments, farewells and our return home after an encouraging, uplifting and challenging time together.

On behalf of all present, I would thank those who organised and delivered this splendid event – Shaun, Dorothy, Gavin, Ben, Derek and Hilary, along with the staff of the Venue - and I would personally recommend these Conference(s) and encourage members and leaders of all our Connexional church fellowships as a means to 'Come aside and rest a while... and in His quiet strength again be strong.' E.H. Bickersteth (altered)

Barry Hart, Mount Zion Pemberton

Please do pray for our Connexion

FOR OUR CHURCHES
FOR THE CONNEXIONAL OFFICERS
FOR CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIVES
AND FOR ALL DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

LOOKING BACK

MY TIME IN MISSION

BY DAVID ROBINSON, ROE GREEN



David in Central Thailand (1980) visiting one of the villages near Thatako.

It was July 1965, and I was sitting in the large preaching tent at the Keswick Convention. Aged 22, I was a new Christian, having been converted at the Billy Graham Crusade in Manchester four years earlier. It was the missionary meeting, and all the speakers were delivering their talks with great earnestness. 'Why are they doing this?' I wondered to myself. And, then I guessed – I'm sure they are going to appeal for people to serve God full-time in missionary service!

'That's not for me!' I told myself. 'I am committed to my engineering apprenticeship for the next 4 years!' But, at that point, as it were, a voice came into my heart that said, 'That's not your problem, that's MY problem!' I had other objections to full-time service. I noted that I had not yet led anyone to faith in Christ. And, again, the same answer came.

I continued to raise other reasons as to why I was not suitable, but all were likewise dealt with. So, when finally, as expected, an appeal was made at the close of the meeting for people to commit themselves to the Lord for full-time service, I stood, publicly responding to this call to serve.

I began to realise that God had really called me to missionary service. Different factors came into my life to confirm that call, notably directions from God's Word, answers to prayer, the advice of Godly people, and circumstances opening the way. In all these things, the Holy Spirit confirmed that this was the Lord's pathway for

me, and I must walk within it.

During the next seven years, I took the necessary steps to prepare. During the apprenticeship years, I did evangelism through my local IM church, and in coffee bar evangelism in Manchester. I sought to find out what God was doing in world mission, and went to the conferences of different missionary societies.

When I came to the possibility of marriage, before Jenny and I were engaged in 1969, I needed to know if she was also called to missionary service. When that assurance was given, we were able to get married, and two weeks later went together to London Bible College for our Bible training.

Other steps followed, and with the assurance that this was God's pathway for us, we approached the OMF missionary society, and were accepted for work in East Asia. So, with a year, baby in hand, we flew to Singapore in the Autumn of 1972, and then proceeded to Thailand, where we were to serve the Lord.

The call of God from that first 'encounter' seven years earlier remained a strong factor that not only kept us moving forward, but also gave us the assurance that God would provide in every situation. In addition, even though we were aware of our ministry limitations, we knew God would make us fruitful in the work of establishing his Kingdom.

Difficulties did abound, especially in our first term of service, when we were getting used to the trials of heat, strange food, language inability, loneliness etc.

But, there was another factor: a colleague who had come to Thailand at the same time said to me on one occasion, 'If there was an aeroplane standing at my front gate, I would get on it and go home'. I replied that I wouldn't, not because I was braver than he was, but because God had called me to be there, and as long as he wanted me there, that is where I would stay.

Through the following fifty years of

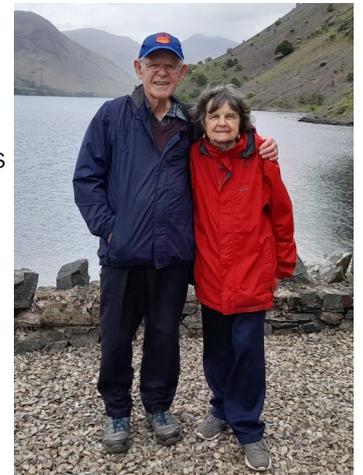
missionary service, (I am now almost eighty years old!), both in Thailand, then in Cambodia, and then in the UK Thai ministry (still ongoing), it has been the call of God on my life that has both kept me in His service, but has also made me fruitful in that work.

On several occasions I needed to check that call, not least at the time we returned to the UK just before Jenny died. I needed God's reassurance that He still wanted me to continue serving Him in Asia. That reassurance was also important when I was asked to change countries (from Thailand to Cambodia), with all that that would entail.

Ten years later, now married to Mary, I again needed a new confirmation from the Lord, that of serving Him amongst Thai people in the UK.

In each place of service I can see that he has been pleased to make me, together with my precious marriage partners, fruitful in his service, despite every weakness and difficulty. What a privilege to have had a part in the building up of his kingdom, and for that I am deeply thankful.

I trust that each of us will hear God's call on our lives to serve Him, whatever the task, and we will be obedient to that call, 'I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven!' (Acts 26:19)



David and his wife, Mary (May 2022)

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC, ANN

On Sunday the 29th of August last year, a service of dedication took place at Easington Lane IM Church. The service, led by our Minister and President Jean Merton, was to unveil and dedicate a memorial plaque in remembrance of our long standing organist and choir master, Ann

Pringle. Ann was our Organist and Choir leader for 50 years and the plaque was fitted over the church organ for all to see and remember Ann with the love and affection she deserved.

Ann's husband, Bill, and daughter, Helen, and some of Ann's immediate

family were in attendance at the service.

Ann is sadly missed by all of us but she is now with her Lord.

Ian Grey, Easington Lane



BRISTOL VISIT

On Saturday the 30th of April, we welcomed Dorothy Kendrick and Marilyn Riding to the Bristol Circuit. We were grateful that they arrived safely, especially after Dorothy's train was delayed for 2 hours.

We all joined in with the celebrations at Bethesda for their 130th church anniversary.

Dorothy gave a thoughtful message on the wedding in Cana, whilst Marilyn did crafts with the children.

After cutting the celebration cake, we all enjoyed a time of fellowship with a

lovely tea.

On Sunday, we all gathered at Mill Lane for morning worship. This time, Dorothy's message was on Paul and Silas in prison. The children made Paul and Silas gingerbread men, as well as paper chains with Marilyn.

Our time of fellowship continued with lunch and this gave us more time to get to know Dorothy and Marilyn.

This time of fellowship gave the three churches time to reflect on the messages the we had received throughout the weekend. We thank them for their ministry, encouragement, friendship and

fellowship and for visiting us in Bristol. We are look forward to a return visit in the future.

Hazel Chapple, Mill Lane, Bristol



Dorothy Kendrick (left) and Marilyn Riding (right) with the children showing their gingerbread men creations.

LOYAL ADDRESS TO HM THE QUEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

Here is a copy of the Loyal Address sent to Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of the Free Churches Group and signed by the Moderator, Reverend Canon Helen Cameron.



The Rt Hon Sir Edward Young KCVO
Private Secretary to The Queen
Private Secretary's Office
Buckingham Palace
London
SW1A 1AA



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Date: 31st May 2022

Dear Sir Edward Young

Loyal Address to The Queen

May it please your Majesty.

I write on behalf of the Free Churches Group in England and Wales and the Bodies of Protestant Dissenters.

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, wish to convey our grateful thanks for the cherished privilege of personal access to the Throne, which the Free Churches have enjoyed for many centuries. We offer Your Majesty our loyal congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of Your succession to the Throne.

Your Majesty has reigned for seventy years with an extraordinary sense of duty and devotion. We know of your strong Christian faith and are thankful for the blessings that God has bestowed upon You. We are grateful for the service that Your Majesty has given to the United Kingdom and the whole Commonwealth.

Your support for charities of all sizes and across many sectors, speaks strongly of your interests in the work that volunteers do to help others. Many volunteers support the work of the Free Churches and they are extremely grateful for Your Majesty's interests in the work they do. We sincerely value the liberty the Free Churches enjoy, to worship according to our consciences and to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ.

We wish to assure Your Majesty of our continued loyal and devoted service to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

The Free Churches, driven by our Christian faith and our love for God and all peoples, pledge to work wholeheartedly for a just and peaceful society, where everyone is treated with dignity and love. We are committed to Christian service, working with our Christian brothers and sisters, and people of all faiths and no faith, to build cohesive communities across the United Kingdom. We believe that God will grant us greater unity, tolerance, and improved relationships as we live together in a diverse society.

As part of Your Majesty's unique United Kingdom wide tree planting initiative to mark your Platinum Jubilee, your loyal subjects will be planting a tree at England's oldest Free Church Chapel in Horningsham.

We assure you of our prayers for your continued health and wellbeing, and for that of your family. We pray that the blessings of Almighty God remain upon you and on all members of the Royal Family now and always.

Yours sincerely,

Reverend Canon Helen Cameron
Moderator of the Free Churches Group

From the Connexion

MAY CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEE ROUND-UP

By Alison Tipping, Medlock Valley Circuit Representative

This was the first hybrid Connexional Committee since records began! The venue was Stubshaw Cross IM Church, which we used as a hub, where several members of the committee joined via Zoom. Dorothy Kendrick chaired the meeting as acting President.

General Secretary's Report Brian Rowney attended a meeting in April, organised by the Methodist Connexion, to discuss priorities in mission and ways of working together. This was attended by several other denominations. Shaun Newton and Dorothy Kendrick attended a Methodist Evangelicals Together (MET) Meeting, which was also attended by the Wesleyan Reform Union, and Free Methodists to try and promote closer links. They are looking at forming an Association of Wesleyan Evangelicals, and there are further meetings planned.

Issues in several churches have been recently supported by Connexional Officers. One is a possible merger between Nelson IM Church and the local Baptist church, who are both meeting in the IM building as one congregation. This is working well, but there are legalities connected with this, which the Connexion are assisting with. Issues elsewhere have prompted a reminder to churches of the need to keep accurate minutes of meetings, to have an up-to-date set of rules, to know where their trust deeds are and to ensure they have the correct number of trustees.

It has been suggested that we should hold some Connexional Prayer Days, and further details will be given in the Magazine.

As no nominations had been received for the role of President of the Connexion, Connexional Committee have agreed to nominate Dorothy Kendrick for the role from 2022-24.

Church Support Group Bingley Church is now operating again after getting confirmation that the building is safe to meet in. Westwood has now closed and been sold, but many of our churches have benefitted by receiving equipment and materials before closure. Some pews were sold with others going to a Christian charity in Manchester. Chorley Church is now awaiting sale.

Regular contact is kept up with Ramsey Church and Rachel Price has now sent Christian gifts to sell in the shop at Downall Green Church. The group continue to support churches who have had grants in relation to workers.

The Northwest worker has been able to go back into the Resource Centre and has been checking all the materials which had been gathered previously by workers and working out how they can be best used. She has also been supporting the work regarding Northwood, as well as attending the Rural Ministries Conference, which David Okell also attended. The North East Workers job will be looked into in the coming weeks, following further consultation.

Finance Committee The Finance Committee are now meeting on a monthly basis on Zoom, and are doing a rolling review of the Finances. Grants

have been agreed for several churches after approval from the Association. Alan Britton had contacted Forbes Solicitors for advice in connection with Robert Street church. It was agreed that we tender for a solicitor that the Connexion could use in the future, as we have been using Forbes for quite some time.

For the past number of years, there has been a shortfall in the donations for Overseas Missions. The donations to our missionaries are made twice a year – April and October – and total £21k annually, and the shortfall amounts have been taken from the Association General Fund. Some of this information was shared in the weekly mailing in March and to appeal to churches/individuals for more donations. This will be the subject for further discussion.

New policies on Finance and Grants were discussed again, but not approved, as there are still further amendments needed before they can be adopted.

Ecumenical Officer Report Bill Hampson attended the 2022 Churches Together in England (CTE) Forum at Swanwick, on 15th March, on 23rd March the Free Churches Group (FCG) meeting at Tavistock Square, London and on Sunday 3rd April, at Wesley's Chapel, London, the farewell service for FCG Moderator Rev Hugh Osgood and the induction of the incoming moderator, Rev Helen Cameron. The CTE Forum issued the following statement on behalf of the churches:

'Christian organisations and ecumenical bodies recognise the enormity of the Ukrainian refugee crisis and call upon H.M. Government to do all it can to develop programmes of refuge for those fleeing Ukraine that are both just and effective. We welcome changes recently announced to a complex and slow visa application system, thus easing the ways in which Ukrainian refugees can be given sanctuary and urge the swiftest implementation of this system.

We embrace the role churches can play as communities of faith offering welcome, homes and compassion to those who have fled war, and encourage churches to take up opportunities to sponsor refugee families.

While we recognise the huge challenges facing those countries bordering Ukraine, in which refugees first arrive, and call for a fair sharing of this burden throughout Europe, we deplore the discrimination against African and Asian people and those of religious minorities fleeing Ukraine, and call for every nation receiving refugees to treat all with equal care and dignity.

We also recognise, with shame, the slowness to welcome Afghan refugees who are already in Britain, often remaining housed in bed and breakfast accommodation. Refugees come from

many nations in conflict and we pray that Britain might become a society where strangers find a welcome, whatever their origin. We urge Government to consider amendments to UK Borders and Nationality Bill. Jesus himself was a child refugee, and in the stranger, we can recognise Christ coming amongst us.

Churches should act with compassion and just as we have committed ourselves to pray for peace and for the victims of war, we also pray for those who are refugees and for those housing and caring for them.'

Administration Group There has been much discussion about re-opening the Resource Centre for normal business. The intention is to open up initially for three days a week but encourage visitors to ring in advance, to ensure that someone will be there.

Production of the bi-monthly magazine continues under interim arrangements, with the Admin Group looking at the content prior to print. Feedback remains positive.

Annual Meeting 2022 will be a hybrid meeting, taking place at Nelson church and via Zoom. Questions on the reports should be submitted in advance via the Resource Centre and will be forwarded to the relevant officer, who will respond prior to the meeting. Questions and responses will be shared at Annual Meeting. Questions from the floor will not be taken. Voting will take place either by person on the day or in advance (by post or electronically). No electronic voting on the day.

There was a recommendation that Annual Meeting 2023 be a one day, church-based business meeting, at a venue to be decided (invitations sought). Following some discussion, it was thought that a questionnaire could be sent out to gain opinions from the churches. Discussions about future Annual Meetings will continue.

Communications Officers Report We have also bought and set up the equipment to allow the meeting room at the Resource Centre to be used as a conferencing hub. This has involved the purchase of a TV, camera, microphone system, and various cables and cable management. The facility has now been used a couple of times at the Resource Centre for Admin Group meetings and is now available for more general use for meetings within the Connexion.

Northwood Christian Centre Report An extensive report was given regarding the current situation at Northwood. The Management Group still continues with only Kathy Pringle and David Okell (Site Manager), although a small group did meet to discuss matters. The Centre has been running at a loss since at least 2016, and between the group, there was no clear decision on a way forward for NWCC.

The matter has been referred to the Enabling Group by Connexional Committee as to whether to continue at a loss, or to close Northwood completely. This will be discussed again at the October Connexional Committee meeting.

Overseas Missions Anne Stanworth has taken Overseas Missions Services at both Friars Green Church and Grappenhall Church and is heartened by the interest in the work of our missionaries.

Lesley and Philippe - Lesley has been busy running coaching workshops in both English and French and these have gone well. Philippe is designing a new agricultural project. Lesley has also prepared a webinar on reducing stress, and is working on another for International Coaching Week in May. They ask prayer for Lesley's friends and their husbands, whom Philippe wants to get to know.

Gail & Daniel Castro flew to Budapest, Hungary, to join O.M.S.'s Hungarian and Ukrainian teams in aiding refugees fleeing the conflict. They have been involved in helping to supply food to orphanages and also in evacuating some orphans with special needs from Ukraine. They have also helped at the welcoming centre for Ukrainian refugees in Hungary, as well as transporting people to Budapest almost every day. Their mission has been asked to hold English camps for Ukrainians.

Liz Greenhalgh (Romania) says that there are a lot of Ukrainian refugees in Campina and local people are helping to meet their basic needs and also offering them transport. Liz continues to be involved in the church youth work, and some have been able to share a short message. Work with the adults also continues. Liz asks prayer for more volunteers for the work.

The Overseas Missions Committee are happy to organise Meetings and services, but still need more members.

Enabling Group Much of our time has been spent in discussion around the paper produced by Derek Yates in January 2022 which has been made available to Connexional Committee members and all of our churches who were asked to send their views by mid-April. Very few responses had been received but they had been positive. Further discussion took place on how we can help churches to understand we are all in this together and this paper is relevant for all of us. It was suggested that we need to move forward in the process and then see how churches react.

The group who have been meeting with John Claydon are now well on with producing Sermon Notes, Bible Study Notes and Video Series to share with all our churches to look at the founding principles of Independent Methodism and encourage discussion and ideas of possible changes required for us to be more effective in our missional objectives. There have been lessons learned from recent issues which have resulted in a recommendation that guidelines are drawn up to assist churches considering merging with another church, and engaging a church worker.

Also, a great deal of time has been spent by Officers in seeking to find details of previous decisions made many years ago for which we do not have minutes. In the interests of good governance there is a recommendation that all minutes and any correspondence relating to decisions made are cc to President and General Secretary and a copy also sent to the Resource Centre to be kept in a central file. Both of these recommendations were agreed.

Ministry Committee There are two eligible ministers this year for Long Service Recognition Certificates – one for 60 years and one for 25 years. The former accredited minister, Alan Bickle, has been received into the Lord's

immediate care, and his funeral was held on 26th April 2022.

Good News for Everyone – Introducing Everyone to Jesus (formerly known as Gideons UK) UK Branch has decided to separate itself from the US parent organisation and has embarked on a vibrant relaunch, featuring a new, attractive and colourful magazine outreach format. If anyone would like more information or would be willing to help with the work of the organisation, please contact the Ministry Officer who will be pleased to share up-to-date contact information.

Education Organisers Report Current enrolments are two 1st Year Students, two 2nd Year Students and one 4 Year Student. The future Study Weekend dates are 30th September-2nd October 2022, 24th-26th February 2023 and 6th-8th October 2023. The next Ministry & Leaders conference will be Friday 28th and Saturday 29th April 2023, with the speaker Ashley Cooper, Principal of Cliff College.

This year's conference in May had disappointing numbers, but there was excellent teaching given, and was enjoyed by all who did attend. Churches need to be aware that the conference is open to all, and not just to Ministers and Leaders, which may encourage more people to attend.

Safeguarding Report Marilyn Riding continues in this role, and has been dealing with emails from DDC (Due Diligence Checking) who inform her of emails sent to our churches regarding DBS checks. Follow up with our churches is sometimes required. Application forms and other info regarding Safeguarding Policies etc are sent to churches on request. Thirty One Eight have been consulted for help with a difficult issue, and have proved to give very helpful information.

MAYOR OF SUNDERLAND

One of our members at South Hylton IM Church, Alison Smith, has taken up the role of Mayor of the City of Sunderland, supported by her husband David as her consort.



From left, Councillor Alison Smith, The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Sunderland, with our minister Anne Chisholm and David Smith.

It was good to share in prayers with them and ask the Lord's blessings on them as they undertake the role over the coming year.

Lucy Pearson, South Hylton

LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT FOR HINDLEY

With help of donations, and a grant of £400 from the 'Brighter Borough' scheme of the local council, Hindley Church have recently been able to purchase a defibrillator for their premises.

This will be a great asset to the church, firstly, because they are an



elderly congregation, and secondly, due to various groups from within their community which use their church premises. These include Slimming World, The Silver Choir, a local karate group and a ukulele band.

Adrian Kearsley, a paramedic, and the son of Fred and Lilian Kearsley visited the church to provide necessary training on how to use the equipment. A representative from the local council also attended one of the training sessions offered.

At the moment, the church is undergoing some renovations; much neglected work delayed due to COVID.

Their church activities have resumed, with Bible study and prayer, and 'Knit and Natter' on alternate Tuesday afternoons currently being held.

The Fellowship feel that the Lord is indeed blessing them, perhaps not numerically, but spiritually, with a deep love for each other and a sense of the Lord's presence.



GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU

'But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).'

Ephesians 2:4-5 NKJV

Based on Luke 10:30-37

There was a man, attacked and injured as he went along the road; he lay there half-dead, unable to help himself. A Samaritan travelling along the same way, saw the battered and bruised man lying at the roadside. Having compassion on him, he interrupted his journey to rescue and care for him.

First of all, he attended to his wounds. He bound up the man's wounds after he had poured soothing oil and wine on them. Taking the injured man to a place of safety, he paid the price for him and his wellbeing until his return. The Samaritan also promised to come back for the man; he did not leave or abandon him but took upon himself the cost of the man's care and future protection.

Sinners that we are, we know that having met Jesus as we went along our way we have a new life in Him and through Him. He has bought us by His precious blood. Our wounds have been healed by His love; we now live under the shadow of His wing (Psalm 17:8; 36:7; 91:1-2). We know Jesus will not leave us or abandon us (John 14:3, 18, 28; John 16:16); we can find security in Jesus.

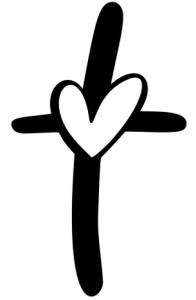
Consider the oil and the wine, do you suppose the oil was symbolic of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, or of the grace of God, or of the freely-given power of God for the man's life?

Do you think the wine was poured for the forgiveness of sins; a new covenant? (Matthew 26:28; Exodus 24:8; Ephesians 1:7).

Whatever we think of the story Jesus told, we know it was Jesus who paid the price for us; for our forgiveness. Jesus, it was, who brought us healing and by His blood we are saved. Because of Jesus, we are brought to new life which we live through faith in Him (Ephesians 2:4-10; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 5:8-9).

In the story, the Samaritan showed mercy and compassion on the helpless man. Who else but Jesus has shown mercy on a helpless mankind? Go you then and do the same!

Article taken from the Kirkhall Lane, Leigh Church Magazine



KIRKHALL LANE HOLD SERVICE OF BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

We are delighted to share the news of a very blessed and joyful event for Kirkhall Lane.

On the 24th of April, friends at Leigh Baptist Church kindly made their premises available for us to baptise several of our folks into Christ Jesus. Kirkhall Lane led the service as the two fellowships joined in worship and also broke bread together around the Communion table. Included with the praise and worship was an exposition of God's providential grace to the Ethiopian Eunuch, his conversion and his baptism (Acts.8:26-40).

Whenever people come forward to request believer's baptism, we are eager to hear the testimony which lies behind that request. Each of the candidates concerned have testified

that they belong to Christ and are born again of the Holy Spirit. A Bible study course was provided, at their request, covering the subject of baptism in the New Testament Church. To be immersed in Christ in this way through the waters of baptism, would be a very dangerous thing to do in their own country.

It has been a privilege to share this experience with them and to have fellowship with the Baptists. The enjoyment of excellent hosting facilities were followed with an equally good buffet by way of a faith lunch. There is a feeling of certainty that more of these events will take place in the future. Praise His wonderful name!

Roger Stone, Kirkhall Lane, Leigh



From left to right:

In the Joy of the Lord

Daniel Prescott
9th December 1988 - 22nd March 2022
Lamberhead Green

Daniel died suddenly on March 22nd. His unexpected death at such a young age has left a huge hole in our lives.

In the sadness and grieving, the hole can only be filled by God's love.

The funeral service at Wigan Crematorium on April 8th was conducted by his grandad, Norman, with Daniel's brother and sister paying relevant tributes.

Being a Liverpool football fan, the 'Red' service centred on the club's anthem, 'You'll never walk alone.'

Norman reminded the many present that in all circumstances, God walks with us and, as the poem, 'Footprints' reminds us that in difficult times, God carries us.

Partner Leah, Dad and Mum, Andrew and Louise, Norman and Rita, and all the family, wish to thank the many people who shared with them in this sad time by sending cards, flowers and especially prayers.

Norman Prescott

In Heavenly Love Abiding

AN EASTER WEEKEND TO REMEMBER AT BETHEL, NEWTOWN

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All articles for the magazine
should be sent to the
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After two years of Easters spent quietly at home during lockdown, we were overjoyed to open our doors this Easter weekend, to gather together with friends old and new, and to enjoy a wonderful weekend of celebration.

This began on Good Friday morning with a meaningful service of contemplation and reflection, led by our new Minister, Pauline, as we considered Jesus' final words from the cross - 'It is finished!'

That evening, saw the augmented choir come together, under the direction of Kevan, to tell the Easter story of 'The Greatest Love' in scripture and song. What a privilege it was to finally raise the roof with joyous singing, not only by the choir, but by the congregation to the awesome accompaniment of our church organ.

Acting Connexional President, Dorothy Kendrick, led the service and gave us an encouraging message of hope; she also brought a minibus of folks from Roman Road church in Oldham! It was so encouraging to see the church full and if you missed it, there's always next year! It was certainly a time of great blessing and our way of expressing our thanks and grateful praise for what Jesus's great sacrifice meant for each one of us.

The collection that evening raised an amazing £505 pounds which was hand-delivered to 'The Brick', a local charity, to help out in the vital services they provide to those in need in the Wigan area. Thank you

so much to everyone who came on Good Friday and for your very kind and generous donations.

Following a well-earned rest on Saturday, our weekend concluded on Easter Sunday morning with an uplifting service of praise led by our Minister, Chris, as we celebrated the glorious resurrection.

It was a great joy at that service to welcome five new people into membership - Sue and Harold, Audrey, Eileen and Linda. We do thank God for each one of you and are overjoyed to have you, not only join our fellowship, but already giving of your time and talents in God's service.



The picture of the new members (with Ministers) from left to right - Chris Ormerod, Audrey Manifold, Sue and Harold Gregory, Eileen Smalley, Lynda Higham and Pauline Smith.

All in all, a tremendously uplifting weekend which has strengthened us to continue in the Lord's work at Bethel, and which will be remembered for a very long time.

Pauline Smith, Bethel Newtown



Denise Hodge (left) is welcomed into church membership by Doreen Hopkinson (right).

A NEW MEMBER IS WELCOMED AT PROVIDENCE

The Easter Day celebration at Providence Independent Methodist Church in Dewsbury was extra special this year, when we had the great pleasure of welcoming Denise Hodge into the Fellowship.

Denise has been worshipping with us for quite some time now and when she made the decision to join our Fellowship, we could think of no better day to welcome her than on the day Jesus rose from the tomb to give us all eternal life.

We warmly welcome Denise to our Fellowship with Christian love and friendship, and pray that her faith will continue to grow as she worships with us week by week. Every blessing Denise!

Doreen Hopkinson, Dewsbury